

NSC BRIEFING

19 October 1960

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CONGO

- I. We still have a political stalemate in Leopoldville, but Lumumba's long-term political prospects may have been boosted by indications of support from UN quarters, and by Mobutu's insecure hold on Congo Army.
- A. Hammarskjold told Ambassador Wadsworth 15 October he still regards Lumumba as legal premier. Added that he plans to "break" Tshombé by insisting that Belgians and others route all Congo aid through UN.
1. Hammarskjold probably softening his opposition to Lumumba in order to keep support of many African states for UN operation in the Congo.
- B. UN Under Secretary Bunche says he hopes "in matter of weeks" Congo parliament can be reconvened and government created "which UN could support."
- II. Lumumba's Asian and African allies--possibly despairing of achieving a clear-cut victory over Mobutu in Leopoldville--are seeking UN action of a type to support Lumumba.
- A. Led by UAR, Ghana and Guinea, AA's propose sending "good offices" delegation to Congo, to achieve some sort of "political reconciliation" which would return Lumumba to power.
- B. Morocco, which continues to back Lumumba, seeking meeting of African states in early November.

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State Department review completed

III. Mobutu appears to have dropped idea of reconvening parliament in order to strip Lumumba of his immunity from arrest. Neither side appears confident of strong parliamentary support.

- A. Following weekend trip to Katanga for conference with President Tshombé, Mobutu declared that rule by army and student administrators would continue until end of year.
- B. Mobutu's meeting with Tshombé on 16 October served as reminder that if anyone but Lumumba had been premier Katanga might not have seceded.
 - 1. But Tshombé's position being undermined by anti-government tribal agitation as well as by Hammarskjöld.
 - 2. Joint UN-Katanga communiqué announced on 17 October that UN forces would move to occupy "rebel-infested" areas in northern and central Katanga.
- C. Motive for Mobutu's arrest of 15 Lumumba supporters on 19 October not clear, since most of them released same day. Arrests possibly viewed as warning to pro-Lumumba elements in Leopoldville, or designed to facilitate search for incriminating documents such as those found on Lumumba.

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